

COVID19 Updates & Report-outs w/ Homeless Service Providers

Wednesday, March 25, 2020 9:00 AM

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Meeting Recording:

Topic: COVID19 Updates & Report-outs with Homeless Service Providers

Date: Mar 25, 2020 08:43 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

https://zoom.us/rec/share/u9AuaLrJ2E9Oc7PX5WraW6luB77kT6a80yMX_6UIInUI7WMJ3WAEWVY_Zhp0w9R

Austin/Travis County

COVID19 Updates & Report-outs w/ Homeless Service Providers March 25th Agenda



Agency Updates



Medical System Updates – Dr. Audrey Kuang & Dr. Tim Mercer



ECHO – National Updates and Local Operations – Matt Mollica & Kate Moore



City of Austin / Austin Public Health



Wrap Up – Next Call: Thursday, 26th @ 9:00am

ECHO –Matthew Mollica, Kate Moore, Laura Evanoff

Federal Update (Matt Mollica)

- Senate is voting on COVID release package early this afternoon
- Sounds like it will be passed
 - 4 billion ESG; shelters and outreach workers
 - 5 billion CDBG - rental assistance (typically not sued in this way)
 - 685 million to public housing
 - 1.5 billion TBRA
 - 1 billion project-based rental assistance
 - 120 million HUD 202 program & 811 & HOPWA
 - 30 billion in disaster release funds - can be used in similar fashion to ESG and CDBG

Local Level (Matt Mollica)

- Still waiting for info on waivers and funding flexibility from HUD - will let everyone know as soon as comes out
- ECHO is working to create intentional pathways for the money to be used, going to work close with the city to plan for the funds and how we can get that money into the system as quickly and as intentional as possible
- ECHO will reach out to groups on how to coordinate how to get this money into the city quickly
- Funds are waterfalled down from federal level to local level

ECHO Operations (Kate Moore)

- COVID-19 Coordination Groups: ECHO staff are coordinating calls with the following coordination groups
 - Permanent Housing Programs (Bree Williams and Laura Evanoff)
 - First call is on Thursday 3/26/20 from 10:00 – 11:30
<https://zoom.us/j/744399925> Meeting ID: 744 399 925
 - Homeless Service Providers and Health Care System (Niki Kozak)
 - Friday 3/27 at 8:00am

- Emergency Night Shelter (Preston Petty)
 - Wednesday 3/35 @ 11:30
- Outreach / Unsheltered Homelessness (Katie Rose)
 - Mondays at 8:00am

CUC Health Care for the Homeless Team – Tim Mercer

- Working on various protocols and workflows regarding quarantine and isolation with anticipation that sites will be online soon
- Need to be clear about difference between quarantine and isolation definitions
 - Different categories that people will fall in and decide priority process
- Working on system with the hospital, ECHO, and APH

City of Austin / Austin Public Health – Vella Karmen & Christopher Shorter

- Anticipating federal aid that congress is working to pass
- Funding expected to be 2x as much as funding from 2000-2011 HVRP funds
- Handwashing stations identified by Dell Med and HCH team; working to distribute
- Working to distribute to locations of port a potties and other encampments the city goes to for resources
- Trying to push restroom access of those that can be cleaned and maintained better than current portable toilets.
- Looking at sites to increase food access, phone charging, trash similar to violet bag project and hygiene access
- Working on Map for resources for our clients
- Social service brand of emergency operations center is stood up and running
- Multiple task force and strike teams have been put into place
- APH will get information out to community if people want to be a part of that group or are working on similar efforts
- APH is aware of effects in many different areas that can relate to someone entering homelessness and working on strategies that could mitigate issues
- Continuing to work with consultants, experts, and other communities that have been hit sooner than we have
- New order went into effect from Mayor and Judge at midnight
- Essential services include all services within homeless response system
- TOOF update; served over 200 showers since they have been out the past couple of days
- Restrooms at parks should still be open unless out of services for other reasons

Christopher Shorter

- Should not be stopped by authorities if out for work at this time as an essential worker

Resources

- COA Homeless Strategy page: <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/austins-homeless-strategy-covid-19-support>

- Google Drive Folder (drop docs/flyers to share)
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/13MPhvSwdYqfNHASyfnOZgb0x9ScsHGmE>
- Q&A Form
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScLTzZ6S91QYm3REfD7Lo6AVJ55dRLaTgsM7mZxx_Dc1pBSRg/viewform
- Community Google Doc (Homeless Services Continuities)
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1SSLjrNBi7TWvpisfZ5PNIXUjQU_5A9ecoxvmH9DHycM/edit